TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 1997

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Marty Coin WD4JNM 264-9447
V. PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC MEETINGS :	**Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.**
TARC NETS:	**VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910**
	FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. ao146.910
	MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC REPEATERS:	**VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

I would like to remind all TARC members of Field Day to be held June 28 and 29 at Fox Lake Park. The club's Field Day Chairman and his team have made great progress in preparing for this event. To those who have never participated in Field Day, please come out some time during the event and get a first hand view of what it is all about. All members and their guests are welcome to come out and participate in the festivities, whether it be refreshments, "fish stories" or just friendly chit-chat with your fellow hams. We hope to have the city owned school bus out there for your view, and I am sure Warren will find a use for it.

>To those who attended the Monday TARC Test Session. Did you see how Sherry, KF4HTC hood-winked Pat, KF4LTY and Patty, KF4MUV into making phone calls to all local members, reminding them to attend the club meeting? Well Sherry, Pat and Patty, your efforts paid of. There was a 40% increase in attendance! My thanks for another job well done.

>We appreciate Fred Jodts, TFD Battalion Commander, for taking the time to cover the important issues related with emergency planning and preparation with us at our last club meeting. Mr. Blankinship of the TFD has offered to conduct a free course in CPR for TARC members. For details and sign-up contact John, KE4ZPA at 267-9431.

>New members for the Sunday morning bike ride this month are: Red W4UTU, Penny KF4FEY, Peggy KF4OXV, Les K4BZJ and my Sherry KF4HTC. Welcome to all of you. Upgrade congratulations to Red W4UTU, Marty WD4JNM, Tom WA4QJK, Grant KF4IGK, Bill KT4CQ, John DE4ZPA and Bernard KE4GOP who is in the process of changing his call.

>On Thursday evenings at about 6:30 there is a gathering of club members at Denny's on Hwy. 50. We would love to have all of you come join us.

73's

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 1 KD4TLS BEN McMAHAN
JUNE 1 KF4BRL ERIC HEARD
JUNE 2 KE4WJV TERRY DAMPIER
JUNE 9 W4AVP JACK SIEGEL
JUNE 4 KE4HOG NANCIE PREVATT
JUNE 6 N2CTQ LOU GENCORELLI
JUNE 7 K4BZJ LES WIDICK
JUNE 8 000000 SHAUN SHAW, JR.
JUNE 8 KE4AEB JO JORDAN
JUNE 10 K4EOS CLYDE LEE
JUNE 11 W9I0S BILL KARR
JUNE 11 KF4QMM SUE MALLEN
JUNE 12 KA4VYH BILL YOUNG
JUNE 12 KS4YU STEVE GRINER
JUNE 14 KF4CYE EARNEST CODY
JUNE 16 KR4YZ CHARLES FAGEL
JUNE 17 KF4JWS JERRY COLLINS
JUNE 19 KF4MUV PATTY KING
JUNE 21 AE4NT ARNOLD THRASH
JUNE 21 AE4NT DANIEL McLEAN
JUNE 25 AD4PP JERRY MOSKOVITZ
JUNE 25 W4GMW NEALE CRANSTON
JUNE 26 KE4KIB TODD GRACOM
JUNE 27 KS4GP WARREN MURRAY
JUNE 28 KD4TLR STEVE BIDWELL
JUNE 29 KK4SH VINCE GONZALEZ
JUNE 29 KF4FEZ GAIL CHYCOTA

NEW TICKET....

Oh boy! I just passed my upgrade,
I'm proud as I can be.
I wondered, who, with my new ticket,
I could get to talk to me.
I hurried on home to my new rig,
made sure the dials were set.
"I'll call CQ and then listen,
I'll get back an answer, I bet."
So I call and wait for an answer,
I worry and wonder about why
There never came back my answer,
did my new rig just up and die?
I looked at the back of my new rig,
the place where the coax should be
and noticed that there wasn't any,
"CQ DI L-I-D."
73, Raymond AE4PV
From Fla.Skip

HOW TO FIND A LOST TRAIN

By Clark J. Evans, WA4DLL
From Florida Skip 5/97

In the winter of 1947, northern Illinois had an ice storm and then a snow storm with 6 foot drifts. The ice storm brought down all the power and railroad telegraph lines, so the Illinois Central Railroad had no way of communicating and finding out where their trains were. In this disaster, Wes Mariner, W9AND, asked the Illinois Central if he could help as an amateur radio operator. "Yes," replied the Illinois Central representative. "Can you find a missing train for us?" So Wes got together with 12 other hams in the area and they found the lost train. The hams continued to provide communications for the railroad from January 1 to 5, 1947, until the railroad got its telegraph lines back up. What is unbelievable is years before, Wes had put up a Ham antenna and attached one end to a railroad water tower for steam engines, which was behind his home. The local manager told Wes that he had to take the antenna down. Wes asked him to talk

to the area railroad superintendent in hopes that he would let it stay. When the station manager asked the superintendent about the antenna, the superintendent replied, "Let the Ham keep his antenna on our water tower. We may need his communication abilities some day." Wes and each of his 12 ham friends got medals from the Illinois Central, and a big dinner was given in their honor. Wes also received several letters of commendation. So, as the Illinois Railroad found out in 1947, Ham radio operators are there when you need them!

RADIO AMATEUR CALLBOOK GOES CD ONLY

From Florida Slip 4/97

It's the end of an era for The Radio Amateur Callbook. Publisher Bob Hughes announced March 17, in a letter to Callbook distributors that the company is phasing out its telephone-book-size paper North American and International editions in favor of its CD-ROM product. The 1997 Callbook - the 75th edition - will be the last hard-copy version available. The letter cited "rising costs and increasing demand for electronic publishing" as the reasons for the company's decision to concentrate on the CD-ROM version, which includes worldwide listings. North American and international editions of the paper Callbook - a staple for years in many active ham shacks, sells for around $40, while the CD-ROM sells for around $50. The Callbook began publishing in 1920. Radio Amateur Callbook is produced by Watson-Guptill Publications

The spring CD-ROM edition of the Callbook will be available at the Dayton Hamfest, Hughes told distributors. According to Hughes' letter, the company has "a limited supply of the printed edition" and anticipates that demand will be great once the word gets out. The last printed version will carry a label indicating "last Edition of the Callbook."

For orders, call 800-278-8477; e-mail 103424.2142@compuserve.com

SOUR GRAPES?

From May, 97 QST Correspondence

I read with interest the letter from Rick Wallis, KA4VHV, in the March "Correspondence". I'm very sorry that his wife "tossed her study guide in the trash" because they heard some amateurs using our hobby in an unscrupulous manner. I wish she had based her opinion of ham radio on the operators who were making telephone patches from a base in Antarctica to their families here in the states.

Perhaps Rick should not have told her that *all* hams were "people of good character." He should have told her that *most* were. I don't think you'll find any segment of the population that lacks its share of screwballs. Throwing the study guide in the trash because of a few jerks is like taking your kids out of school because of a single bad teacher. I hope Rick's wife will reconsider getting her license and will put more emphasis on the good points of ham radio.

The three years that I have been a ham are three of the most enjoyable years I can remember. I spend a lot of time with prospective hams, and always enjoy telling them about our hobby. Again, Rick states that "....everyone was so terrified that the codeless license would usher in a horde of poor operators." Everyone was *not*! The Extra class operator who encouraged me to study for my license did not have that fear. I entered our ranks through the codeless Technician class license and eventually upgraded to Extra. The availability of a codeless license is what gave me the courage to get involved in the first place. Rick says, "The poor operators are already here - and they've been Extras for years." Do I possibly hear sour grapes?

Peggy P. Kelly, N3PPG, Gaithersburg, MD

ALTERNATIVE CQS

There are an increasing number of hams who evidently cannot bear to hear certain things on the air. I propose, therefore, that we develop a system of codes to be used when calling CQ. The new codes would conveniently warn others that we only want to talk to those who share our ideas about what is proper for Amateur Radio conversations. The code would consist of a qualifier after "CQ" similar to "CQ DX" and "CQ Contest." Of course, there would be many more unanswered CQs, but that seems a small price to pay in exchange for the benefits. Here are a few modest suggestions:

CQ T - Traditional. All I want is my signal report, plus your location, rig and antenna. If you start to tell me anything interesting, I'll suddenly remember that my geraniums need repotting.

CQ NQ - No Q signals on phone. If you respond QSL rather than "Yes, I copied that" I'll become even more verbose than I am already.

CQ IP - ITU phonetics only. If you say "Kilowatt Dog Zero Ida Yokohama Zanzibar", I'll ask, "I was never very good at geography, but I thought Yokohama was in Japan. And isn't Zanzibar called Tanzania now?"

CQ NHM - No health matters. If you mention having a cold, I'll retaliate with a graphic discussion of various catheters.

CQ NPP - No plural pronouns. If you use "we" and "our" when referring to yourself alone, I'll start referring to you as "you-all."

CQ NLI - No laughter impairment. If you say "hi hi" on phone rather than just laughing like a normal person, I'll never laugh again.

Then there's the most useful one of all:

CQ NM - Never mind. I'm calling CQ because I like to hear myself talk, but I can't stand listening to other people, so don't bother me by responding.

John Steward, KF0PQ, Leadville, Colorado

EIMAC SELLS GLASS-TUBE DIVISION

From May, 97 QST

Eimac is out of the glass-tube business. The former Eimac glass-tube manufacturing facility has been sold and relocated from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Easton, Pennsylvania. The new company, Triton, moved the former Eimac plant "lock, stock and barrel" from Utah to Pennsylvania, said Mark Hoffman, a senior scientist at Triton. In all, it took 16 tractor-trailer loads to move the plant's manufacturing equipment and inventories across the country, he said. Triton is manufacturing 46 different Eimac and Westinghouse type tubes, including the popular 3-500Z, 4-400A and 40400C. Right now, Triton does not make the 6146, 472B, 811A or 4-1000A, but Hoffman did not rule out the possibility that the company may tool up to manufacture those tubes in the future. Triton also makes glass tube chimneys and sockets.

Hams interested in obtaining small quantities of Triton tubes should contact the company's distributor, Richardson Electronics, Lafox, Illinois; tel 800-323-1770. Triton may be contacted at 610-252-7331.

Eimac, recently purchased by an investment group (Communications and Power Industries) continues to make and rebuild ceramic external-anode tubes. It has been relocated to Palo Alto, CA.

CONFUSED BY ANTENNA GAIN FIGURES?

From May 97 IRARC Newsletter
By Vincent Heuber, N2TAI

Do all those claims in antenna ads and articles, with gains in dB, dBi, and dBd leave you baffled? If so, this article may help you sort the facts from the hot air.The first fact you need to know is that antennas operate according to physical laws that have been well understood since the days of Hertz and Marconi. Today, it's possible to predict the gain and other characteristics of an antenna before it is even built. Engineers can also fine tune any design by testing prototype antennas on an antenna range. A miracle antenna design - one that obsoletes all the knowledge accumulated since Hertz's "sparkling ball" antenna - isn't likely. So

when you see a gain claim that seems out of line, consider your suspicions justified.

Here are some useful "yardsticks".

- The standard of comparison is the "isotropic" antenna, a theoretical beast that radiates equally in all directions. Its power gain, by definition, is zero decibels over an isotropic (0 dBi) because zero decibels means the two things being compared are equal.
- The gain of a half-wave dipole antenna is 2.1 dB over an isotropic antenna (2.1 dBi). The dipole can also serve as a secondary standard. One can state its gain as zero dB over a dipole (0 dBd). So 2.1 dBi and 0 dBd are just two ways of saying the same thing. Why do we need two ways? Some manufacturers use dBi instead of dBd because doing so lets them use larger, more impressive numbers for the same gain.
- The gain of a single quad loop antenna (a full-wave loop) is 4.1 dBi or 2 dBd.
- The gain increase over a dipole by adding a single parasitic reflector or director element to a yagi is approximately 5 dB. (A two-element yogi beam has 5 dBd gain).
- If spaced and turned properly, additional parasitic directors can increase gain further, but in a decreasing manner.
- Antenna gain measured in the vertical plane cannot be counted again in the horizontal plane, and vice versa.
- Relative to its full size equivalent, a reduced-size antenna ordinarily has less gain, narrower useful bandwidth, or both.

VERTICALS: For vertical antennas, you need a few additional facts:

- The gain of a quarter-wavelength ground-plane vertical is 0.3 dBi (or 1.8 dBd).
- The gain of a vertical half-wavelength dipole is identical to that of a horizontal dipole: 2.1 dBi.
- The gain of a 5/8 wavelength vertical is 3.3 dBi or 1.2 dBd.

GAIN FROM TYPICAL ANTENNAS: Here are gains in dB one may expect from some typical antennas.

Antenna Type	Gain, dBi	Gain, dBd
Isotropic	0.0	-2.1
Half-wave dipole	+2.1	0.0
Full-wave loop	+4.1	+2.0
2-element Yagi	+7.1	+5.0
2-element quad	+9.1	+7.0
3-element Yagi	+10.1	+8.0
3-element quad	+12.1	+10.0
4-element Yagi	+12.1	+10.0
4-element quad	+14.1	+12.0
Ground-plane	+0.3	-1.8

From the Liverpool ARC "The Long Wire", Steve Auyer, N2TKX, Editor.

WHAT'S THE FUTURE FOR HAM-RADIO CLUBS?

By Billy Williams, N4UF (From Fla.Skip 4/97)

Radio clubs have existed for over 75 years but it was not until the conclusion of World War II that Amateur Radio clubs, associations and societies peaked in popularity. Most pre-war clubs were experimenter groups interested in the new, emerging technology of electronics and communication science. Locally, the Jacksonville Radio Club was active in the 1930s. Though hams belonged, Amateur Radio was not the only focus.

>After FCC lifted wartime ban on Amateur Radio operation in 1945, an evolution from a mostly technical, science-oriented club model to a multipurpose group accelerated. The focus narrowed with Amateur Radio becoming the main criteria for club affiliation. Recruitment of newcomers, training classes for the new novice class license, public relations, more operating events, emergency communications assistance and exchange of technical information became major objectives of many clubs.

>Until the late 1960s, hams in an area were usually unified under a single club banner. The ham population then was about a third of what it is today. A large club had 75 members.

>Around 1970 VHF-FM and repeaters soared in popularity. Commercial technology of the 60s became

available cheaply to hams as surplus. Early repeaters usually required combined efforts of hams in an area to finance, install and maintain. Traditional, general interest groups became fragmented and were often indifferent to interests of those who were amazed by repeaters, autopatches and the novelty of reliable local mobile-to-mobile communications capability. A ham with an HT in public in 1973 brought looks of amazement, from non-hams who gasped as an autopatch was conducted. Today, such capability is routine but in the 70s, it was a breakthrough.

>Special interest clubs with a narrow focus characterized the 1970s. VHF-FM/repeater groups were the most popular followed by DX/contest groups and later came digital clubs. General interest clubs continued to decline in the 1980s although not drastically.

>Historically, hams have not been attracted to clubs in major percentages. In a midsize city of 1000 hams, typically about 350 to 400 will be active at any one time. Many operators run "hot and cold" over the years drifting between active participation and inactivity. Hams are not known as joiners.

>About 250 of the 1000 hams will belong to ARRL. 180 or so will join a local club and about 60 of those will regularly attend club functions and meeting. And a core group of about 50 (5% of the total) will serve as officers or project chairpersons. It is this core group which is key to the future of Amateur Radio clubs.

>Increasingly, members of the 1990s tend to have a "been there, done that" outlook when it comes to volunteering for club duties. Many will perform a function one or two times and then move on. Ham radio and clubs rate a low priority. Many members come to view themselves more as "subscribers" than as members. They expect to receive club services such as repeater access and autopatch use but are not motivated to exert much effort aside from paying annual dues. A repeater group officer once remarked that the best way to ensure a big meeting turnout was to have the repeater "crash" a few days before the meeting and stay off the air. Members who have not been to a function in years will turn out demanding to know the cause of the interruption of their "service" and upon whom to fix the blame. While somewhat overstated, there is some truth.

>Some clubs (Amateur Radio and otherwise) are possible due to efforts of that 5% core. These operators repeatedly take part in club activities and lead projects. Some remain active for decades. The future of clubs rests on keeping this core at critical mass. Without a sufficient core, a club will not function. An interesting facet is that although our clubs membership has varied from 60 to almost 500 over the years, the size and quality of the core has been largely independent of the membership size during any year. A club of 60 members might have 15 core members while a club of 500 might have 20 to 30!

>Large clubs are preferable because when regulatory problems arise, officials tend to listen to large groups of people rather than individuals. Postage breaks for mailing newsletters are available whenever 200 or more are sent at the same time.

>Clubs which survive will be those who identify those activities which can attract the interest of core members who then promote the activity to the membership. Members vote for, or against an activity, by their participation or not-participation. Clubs usually have limited resources in funds and volunteers and these should be focused on a limited number of well-chosen activities.

>Activities should be oriented toward the entry-level ham although more advanced alternatives can be included if volunteer resources permit. Meetings should not be too technical; an EE degree shouldn't be necessary to understand the speakers.

>A trend is toward fewer in-person meetings. Some special interest clubs have cut back to quarterly meetings. Some general interest groups meet every other month.

>Club newsletters may become endangered. Nationally, many clubs have dropped them. The newsletter of the future may be delivered electronically. Club functions and activities change as the years pass.

FOR SALE
ICOM 706 W/BOX AND PAPER
W/MOBILE BRACKET
$1000

PK232TNC
W/.3 BOOKS OF INSTRUCTIONS
$150

CALL MARTY, WD4JNM
407-264-9447

ABELL'S ANECDOTES
By Pike W4EPU

WHEN HAMS MEET

Amateur radio operators and fishermen
have a great deal in common.
As a general rule, they both love their hobbies.
The following is a conversation between two
persons who obviously enjoy both.

"Hiyamac."
"Lobuddy."
"Binerlong?"
"Coplours!"
"Whatchadoin?"
"Windinacoil!"
"Hmanitrns?"
"Hunerterso!"
"Watsitfer?"
"Hunertsixty!"
"Evergofishin?"
"Geddafew!"
"Kindarthey?"
"Bassencarp!"
"Ennysiztoom?"
"Cuplapowns!"
"Hittinhard?"
"Sortalike!"
"Whatchoozin?"
"Gobbawurms!"
"Fishanonaboddum?"
"Rydononaboddum?"
"Igddago."
"Tubad."
"Seeyaroun."
"Yeahtakideezy."
"Guluk."

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR ARRL AND FLORIDA SKIP RENEWALS THROUGH THE CLUB. CALL CLOYED LEE, K4EOS AT267-9375 TO HANDLE YOUR RENEWALS

MAY MEETING
By Marty WD4JNM

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hours by President Bud, K4CWG. After the Pledge of Allegiance and introduction of members and guests, V.President Pike, W4EPU introduced Fred Jodts, Battalion Commander of the Titusville Fire Department, who told the audience about the chain of command during emergency planning and preparation, and explained how the plan would be carried out if a serious emergency such as a hurricane should hit our area. He said that the communications help supplied by TARC is invaluable in such an emergency.

>After the social break, Bud K4CWG reminded members of the UCF tailgate party in Orlando on June 14, starting at 6 AM.

>W2SDB played Happy Birthday to all May celebrants.

>The following new members were voted into the club: KF4RWL Sandra Lyons, WA1NXI Mike Whelpley, KF4QIP Mike Albro, KF4QML Kevin Zimmerman, KF4LTW Tom Vick, KF4QMM Sue Mallen, KF4NSX Chris Marsden.

>Jose KE4VIO talked about tentative plans (possibly a covered dish supper) for a welcoming party for a Brazilian mosquito who is coming to our area in July. Members will be advised when plans are complete.

>Bud K4CWG thanked Les K4SIG, KE4ZPA, KR4YZ, KE4AEB, KT4CQ, and all others for the work recently done on the 146.970 repeater.

>60 members and guests were present for the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT
By Clyde Lee K4EOS

Balance Forward From 1996	5703.59
Deposits Year To Date	2522.07
TOTAL INCOME	**8225.66**
Expenditures	3316.74
BALANCE AS AT 04/30/97	**4908.92**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 281 (204 regular, 71 family, 6 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: 000000 SANDRA LYONS
KF4QIP MICHAEL ALBRO

RENEWALS:
KEVAGK MAURICE GIONET
KF4IGN DORIS GIONET
KE4BBJ CHARLES PROSSER
KE4BK ORA PROSSER
KA3CFG JOSEF GOEBEL
KK4EY LEE ROLL
KB4EYR JUNE ROLL
KC4HMP BARBARA GOEBEL
KB3GK JOHN MUNSEY
K8HRR IRA BICKHAM (2 YRS.)
KF4IGJ CLIFF HILL
KS4JN RAY HUDSON
K4JYX JOHN ADAMS
N4LEM RAY KASSIS
KC4UFI JERRY RUSSELL
KD4MIW SHARON RUSSELL
KE4MXJ PEDRO LORENZI
KE4YQF MARY LORENZI
KT4SY EDDIE GASS
KB7UOW BRUCE ERICKSON
KC7QDT ALAN ERICKSON
KA4VYH BILL YOUNG
KE4YON BUTCH KING
K4MUV PATTI KING
KC4ZHE JOHN HALASZ

HAMFESTS:

06/14	Ft. McCoy
09/21	New Port Richey
10/11	Tampa
11/01	Sorrento
11/08	Titusville
11/22-23	Tampa
12/6	Okeechobee
12/6	Ocala
12/13	Lake City

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

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